

# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

Karl E. Longley, ScD, P.E., Chair



11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114 Phone (916) 464-3291 • FAX (916) 464-4645 http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley

3 December 2009

Mr. Mark Stopher California Department of Fish and Game, Suction Dredge Program 601 Locust Street Redding, CA 96001

### SUCTION DREDGE PROGRAM COMMENTS

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to provide some comments on the suction dredge program. We strongly support the Department's decision to prepare a full Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for permitting of suction dredge operations. We believe that the resuspension and release of mercury during suction dredging is a potentially significant adverse impact that should be thoroughly evaluated in the EIR.

The Central Valley Water Board, with the State Water Resources Control Board and the US Environmental Protection Agency, has identified at least 23 water bodies in the Central Valley portion of the Project area as impaired by mercury on the 2006 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List. These water bodies include the Feather, Bear, and Stanislaus Rivers, and reservoirs in the gold mining area of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The Central Valley Water Board has proposed the listing of more than 40 additional water bodies in the Project area as impaired by mercury. Other Regional Water Boards have also listed water bodies in gold mine areas as impaired by mercury, including the East Fork Trinity River.

Concentrations of mercury in fish in impaired water bodies pose a health risk to people and wildlife species that eat the fish. Mercury in the Project area comes primarily from inactive gold mines and from resuspension of contaminated material in stream beds and banks downstream of the mines. Methylmercury, the most toxic form of mercury in the environment, concentrates in successive levels of the food chain. US Geological Survey scientists have reported elevated levels of methylmercury in water and fish within reservoirs and river reaches in the Project area (data was collected in the Yuba and Bear River watersheds).

For the impaired water bodies, the Central Valley Water Board will develop control programs to reduce mercury pollution and restore the beneficial use of safe fish consumption. The control programs, commonly called Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), will determine mercury and methylmercury loads and assign reductions to sources in the watershed. We

Mark Stopher, DFG 3 December 2009

have not yet estimated mercury loads coming from suction dredging; however, it is possible that suction dredging operations may be contributing to mercury problems in some waterways in the project area. In the development of our control program, we will need to evaluate what kinds of controls would be appropriate for suction dredging operations, such as controlling the amount of mercury that is resuspended during dredging operations. Although not specifically a topic for the EIR, the Central Valley Water Board would like to coordinate with the Department of Fish and Game regarding potential suction dredge permit requirements for mercury-impaired water bodies.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Suction Dredge Permitting Program Initial Study. If you would like information about listings of mercury-impaired water bodies or have any questions, please contact Patrick Morris at 916 464-4621 or by email at pmorris@waterboards.ca.gov.

Jerrold A. Bruns

Environmental Program Manager

Jewell A. Bruss

TMDL, Watershed Management Initiative, and CALFED Section

CC: Rick Humphreys, State Water Resources Control Board

From: "Jan Zimmerman" <JZimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov>

<dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov>
12/2/2009 5:11 PM To:

Date:

Lahontan Water Board Comments on NOP of SEIR CDFG\_NOP.pdf Subject:

**Attachments:** 

Attached are the Lahontan Water Board's comments on the NOP of the SEIR for CDFG's Suction Dredge Permitting Program. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Jan M. Zimmerman, PG Engineering Geologist 760/241-7376 Fax: 760/241-7308 jzimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov

Due to the Governor's Executive Order, I will be out of the office on the first, second and third Fridays every month.



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Lahontan Region



Linda S. Adams Secretary for Environmental Protection

Victorville Office 14440 Civic Drive, Suite 200, Victorville, California 92392 (760) 241-6583 • Fax (760) 241-7308 http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan

Arnold Schwarzenegger Governor

December 2, 2009

File: Environmental Doc Review Statewide

Mark Stopher, Environmental Program Manager California Department of Fish and Game 601 Locust Street Redding, CA 96001 dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov

COMMENTS ON THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE SUCTION DREDGE PERMITTING PROGRAM, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME, STATEWIDE

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Water Board) staff received a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the Suction Dredge Permitting Program (Program) administered by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) on November 2, 2009. CDFG promulgated the existing regulations governing the Suction Dredge Permitting Program in 1994 after preparing and certifying an environmental impact report. The NOP, dated October 26, 2009, was prepared for CDFG by Horizon Water and Development, LLC and submitted in compliance with provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The NOP included an Initial Study and Environmental Checklist, which identified a number of potentially significant impacts on the environment that could result from suction dredge mining operations, including, but not limited to, impacts to hydrology and water quality. These impacts were not adequately addressed during the initial 1994 environmental review, thereby warranting further analysis and preparation of the SEIR.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 14, section 15096, responsible agencies must specify the scope and content of the environmental information germane to their statutory responsibilities. Water Board staff, acting as a responsible agency, has reviewed the above-referenced document in context as to how well the proposed Program protects water quality and hydrologic function, and ultimately, the beneficial use of waters of the State. We agree with CDFG in that there are a number of potentially significant impacts to water quality and hydrology that warrant further analysis through the preparation of the SEIR. Without adequate mitigation, suction dredge mining operations permitted under the proposed Program could result in significant adverse impacts to water quality and may result in cumulative impacts that would permanently alter the hydrologic and ecological function of the surface water, thereby adversely affecting beneficial uses of waters of the State. We hope that CDFG will value our position with respect to protecting and maintaining water quality and hydrologic function and consider our following comments in the preparation of the SEIR.

California Environmental Protection Agency



### Basin Plan

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the Water Board regulate discharges in order to protect water quality and, ultimately, the beneficial uses of waters of the State. Waters of the State include any surface water or groundwater within the boundaries of the State, whether public or private, either within natural or artificial channels. including surface waters determined to be jurisdictional by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (waters of the US). The Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan) provides guidance regarding water guality and how the Water Board may regulate activities that have the potential to adversely affect water quality within the region. The Basin Plan includes prohibitions, water quality standards, and policies for implementation of standards. The Basin Plan can be accessed via the Water Board's web site at

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water issues/programs/basin plan/references.shtml.

We request that the SEIR reference the Basin Plan in the hydrology and water quality impact analysis for the Program and require that permitees under the proposed Program comply with all applicable water quality standards and prohibitions, including provisions of the Basin Plan, for projects located within the Lahontan Region.

# **Potential Impacts to Surface Waters**

We concur with CDFG's findings that there are a number of potentially significant impacts to water quality and hydrology that may result from suction dredging operations and associated activities which warrant further analysis through the preparation of the SEIR. Suction dredging (also called vacuum dredging) is the use of a suction system to remove and return materials at the bottom of a stream, river, or lake for the extraction of minerals. In the Lahontan Region, suction dredge mining has occurred mostly in rivers and streams that drain the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range and in the Mojave Desert. Dredging, whether it is done for mining or some other purpose, can result in a number of potentially significant water quality impacts. It disturbs sediments, increases turbidity, smothers aquatic organisms, and releases nutrients and contaminants which have settled out of the water. Redeposition of dredged sediments within a stream, river, or lake may allow leaching of dissolved nutrients and contaminants back into the surface water, thereby violating water quality standards and adversely impacting the beneficial use.

Water quality impacts resulting from stormwater runoff are of particular concern. Potential pollutant source areas associated with suction dredging operations include encampments (housing, wastewater, and solid waste), construction and grading, and equipment maintenance and staging areas. Potential pollutants include pathogens, nutrients, toxic contaminants, sediment, and debris. Sediment is of particular concern because many other pollutants tend to adhere to eroded soil particles. Fuel and oil leaks and spills to the ground from secondary, land-based equipment such as trucks, vehicles, and generators are also a concern. Without adequate mitigation, stormwater runoff from encampments and equipment staging and maintenance areas has the potential to significantly degrade water quality. We request that CDFG evaluate the potential water quality impacts resulting from stormwater runoff in the SEIR.

#### **Permits**

A number of activities associated with suction dredge mining may require permits issued by either the State Water Board or Regional Water Board because they impact waters of the State. The permits that may be required include: Clean Water Act (CWA), section 401 water quality certification (WQC) for dredge or discharge to waters of the US; Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for dredge or discharge to waters of the State; and CWA, section 402(p) stormwater permits, including a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Stormwater Permit and/or a NPDES General Industrial Stormwater Permit obtained from the State Water Board, or an individual stormwater permit obtained from the Regional Water Board.

We request that the SEIR identify those activities that may require permits issued by either the State Water Board or Regional Water Board and require that permitees under the proposed Program consult with either the State Water Board or Regional Water Board concurrently with CDFG during the permitting process.

# Closing

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Initial Study and Environmental Checklist. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (760) 241-7376 (jzimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov) or Patrice Copeland, Senior Engineering Geologist, at (760) 241-7404 (pcopeland@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely.

án M. Zimmerman, PG **Engineering Geologist** 

JZ\rc\U:\CEQA Review\CDFG\_NOP Suction Dredge.doc



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Lahontan Region



Linda S. Adams Secretary for Environmental Protection

Victorville Office 14440 Civic Drive, Suite 200, Victorville, California 92392 (760) 241-6583 • Fax (760) 241-7308 http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan

Arnold Schwarzenegger Governor

December 2, 2009

File: Environmental Doc Review Statewide

Mark Stopher, Environmental Program Manager California Department of Fish and Game 601 Locust Street Redding, CA 96001 dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov

COMMENTS ON THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE SUCTION DREDGE PERMITTING PROGRAM, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME, STATEWIDE

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Water Board) staff received a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the Suction Dredge Permitting Program (Program) administered by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) on November 2, 2009. CDFG promulgated the existing regulations governing the Suction Dredge Permitting Program in 1994 after preparing and certifying an environmental impact report. The NOP, dated October 26, 2009, was prepared for CDFG by Horizon Water and Development, LLC and submitted in compliance with provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The NOP included an Initial Study and Environmental Checklist, which identified a number of potentially significant impacts on the environment that could result from suction dredge mining operations, including, but not limited to, impacts to hydrology and water quality. These impacts were not adequately addressed during the initial 1994 environmental review, thereby warranting further analysis and preparation of the SEIR.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 14, section 15096, responsible agencies must specify the scope and content of the environmental information germane to their statutory responsibilities. Water Board staff, acting as a responsible agency, has reviewed the above-referenced document in context as to how well the proposed Program protects water quality and hydrologic function, and ultimately, the beneficial use of waters of the State. We agree with CDFG in that there are a number of potentially significant impacts to water quality and hydrology that warrant further analysis through the preparation of the SEIR. Without adequate mitigation, suction dredge mining operations permitted under the proposed Program could result in significant adverse impacts to water quality and may result in cumulative impacts that would permanently alter the hydrologic and ecological function of the surface water, thereby adversely affecting beneficial uses of waters of the State. We hope that CDFG will value our position with respect to protecting and maintaining water quality and hydrologic function and consider our following comments in the preparation of the SEIR.

California Environmental Protection Agency



#### Basin Plan

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the Water Board regulate discharges in order to protect water quality and, ultimately, the beneficial uses of waters of the State. Waters of the State include any surface water or groundwater within the boundaries of the State, whether public or private, either within natural or artificial channels, including surface waters determined to be jurisdictional by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (waters of the US). The Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan) provides guidance regarding water guality and how the Water Board may regulate activities that have the potential to adversely affect water quality within the region. The Basin Plan includes prohibitions, water quality standards, and policies for implementation of standards. The Basin Plan can be accessed via the Water Board's web site at

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water\_issues/programs/basin\_plan/references.shtml.

We request that the SEIR reference the Basin Plan in the hydrology and water quality impact analysis for the Program and require that permitees under the proposed Program comply with all applicable water quality standards and prohibitions, including provisions of the Basin Plan, for projects located within the Lahontan Region.

## Potential Impacts to Surface Waters

We concur with CDFG's findings that there are a number of potentially significant impacts to water quality and hydrology that may result from suction dredging operations and associated activities which warrant further analysis through the preparation of the SEIR. Suction dredging (also called vacuum dredging) is the use of a suction system to remove and return materials at the bottom of a stream, river, or lake for the extraction of minerals. In the Lahontan Region, suction dredge mining has occurred mostly in rivers and streams that drain the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range and in the Mojave Desert. Dredging, whether it is done for mining or some other purpose, can result in a number of potentially significant water quality impacts. It disturbs sediments, increases turbidity, smothers aquatic organisms, and releases nutrients and contaminants which have settled out of the water. Redeposition of dredged sediments within a stream, river, or lake may allow leaching of dissolved nutrients and contaminants back into the surface water, thereby violating water quality standards and adversely impacting the beneficial use.

Water quality impacts resulting from stormwater runoff are of particular concern. Potential pollutant source areas associated with suction dredging operations include encampments (housing, wastewater, and solid waste), construction and grading, and equipment maintenance and staging areas. Potential pollutants include pathogens, nutrients, toxic contaminants, sediment, and debris. Sediment is of particular concern because many other pollutants tend to adhere to eroded soil particles. Fuel and oil leaks and spills to the ground from secondary, land-based equipment such as trucks, vehicles, and generators are also a concern. Without adequate mitigation, stormwater runoff from encampments and equipment staging and maintenance areas has the potential to significantly degrade water quality. We request that CDFG evaluate the potential water quality impacts resulting from stormwater runoff in the SEIR.

#### **Permits**

A number of activities associated with suction dredge mining may require permits issued by either the State Water Board or Regional Water Board because they impact waters of the State. The permits that may be required include: Clean Water Act (CWA), section 401 water quality certification (WQC) for dredge or discharge to waters of the US; Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for dredge or discharge to waters of the State; and CWA, section 402(p) stormwater permits, including a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Stormwater Permit and/or a NPDES General Industrial Stormwater Permit obtained from the State Water Board, or an individual stormwater permit obtained from the Regional Water Board.

We request that the SEIR identify those activities that may require permits issued by either the State Water Board or Regional Water Board and require that permitees under the proposed Program consult with either the State Water Board or Regional Water Board concurrently with CDFG during the permitting process.

# Closing

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Initial Study and Environmental Checklist. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (760) 241-7376 (jzimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov) or Patrice Copeland, Senior Engineering Geologist, at (760) 241-7404 (pcopeland@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Jan M. Zimmerman, PG Engineering Geologist

JZ\rc\U:\CEQA Review\CDFG\_NOP Suction Dredge.doc

CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION 100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South Sacramento, CA 95825-8202



November 24, 2009

PAUL D. THAYER, Executive Officer (916) 574-1800 FAX (916) 574-1810 California Relay Service From TDD Phone 1-800-735-2929 from Voice Phone 1-800-735-2922

> Contact Phone: (916) 574-1900 Contact FAX: (916) 574-1885

File Ref: SCH 2009112005

Mark Stopher California Department of Fish and Game 601 Locust Street Redding, CA 96001

Subject: Suction Dredge Permitting Program Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) Initial Study

Dear Mr. Stopher:

Staff of the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) has reviewed the subject document. The Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The CSLC is a Responsible and/or Trustee Agency for any and all projects which could directly or indirectly affect sovereign lands, their accompanying Public Trust resources or uses, and the public easement in navigable waters. With respect to this project, the CSLC is a Responsible and Trustee Agency. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with comments on the Suction Dredge Permitting Program Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) Initial Study.

As general background, the State acquired sovereign ownership of all tidelands and sub-merged lands and beds of navigable waterways upon its admission to the United States in 1850. The State holds these lands for the benefit of all the people of the State for statewide Public Trust purposes of waterborne commerce, navigation, fisheries, water-related recreation, habitat preservation and open space. The State owns sovereign fee title to tide and submerged lands landward to the mean high tide line (MHTL) as they existed in nature, prior to fill or artificial accretions. On navigable non-tidal waterways, the State holds fee ownership of the bed landward to the ordinary low water mark and a Public Trust easement landward to the ordinary high water mark, as they last naturally existed. The State's sovereign interests are under the jurisdiction of the CSLC.

The Division of Environmental Planning and Management staff has reviewed the document and proposes a thorough evaluation and impact analysis be conducted to ensure the SEIR fulfils the CSLC's requirement to use the document, as a Responsible Agency, in the event a CSLC lease is required.

Queries of the Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) and the USFWS Special Status Species Database should be conducted to identify any special-status plant or wildlife species that may occur in the region of potential suction dredging. A discussion of the potential for occurrence of listed species should be included in the SEIR.

One of the major stressors of the Sacramento River system is introduced species. Therefore, the SEIR should consider a range of alternatives for prevention programs for terrestrial and aquatic invasive species (including quarantine, early detection, and early response) to slow the introduction of invasive species, such as the Quagga mussel, into high demand and sensitive areas. As part of the alternatives analysis, the design of the proposed project should take into consideration the current and proposed aquatic invasive species prevention programs. In addition, in light of the recent decline of pelagic organisms and in order to protect at-risk fish species in certain areas, SEIR should examine the objectives of the project and determine if the project would favor non-native fisheries within the watersheds of preferred gold mining areas.

An evaluation of the noise and vibration impacts on fish and birds from dredging activities in the water, as well as along riparian corridor habitats, should be included in the SEIR. Mitigation measures may be needed that would include species-specific dredging windows as defined by CDFG, USFWS, and NOAA Fisheries.

Any suction dredging activities along the water-side bank should consider water quality issues, such as increased turbidity and sedimentation; measures to reduce or mitigate these impacts should be required.

An evaluation of potential submerged cultural resources in the project areas will need to be undertaken. Any submerged archaeological site or submerged historic resource remaining in state waters for more than 50 years is presumed to be significant. The title to all abandoned shipwrecks and all archaeological sites and historic or cultural resources on or in the tide and submerged lands of California is vested in the state and under the jurisdiction of the CSLC. The CSLC maintains a shipwrecks database of known and potential vessels located on the state's tide and submerged lands; however, the location of many shipwrecks remains unknown. The recovery of objects from any submerged archaeological site or shipwreck requires a salvage permit under Public Resources Code (PRC) section 6309. On statutorily granted tide and submerged lands, a permit may be issued only after consultation with the local grantee and a determination by the CSLC that the proposed salvage operation is not inconsistent with the purposes of the legislative grant. A Code of Federal Regulations section 106 evaluation should be made, as well, to determine any potential terrestrial cultural resources in the project areas where dredging could occur.

Greenhouse gas emissions information consistent with the California Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) should be included in the draft SEIR. This would include a determination of the greenhouse gases that will be emitted as a result of

suction dredging, a determination of the significance of those impacts, and mitigation measures to reduce any impacts found to be significant.

An evaluation of the temporary and permanent loss of recreation resources in the specific areas during the suction dredging operations should be included in the draft SEIR. These impacts should include mitigation measures, which might include alternative public access points, for the residents and tourists of the area.

To the extent the proposed project involves State-owned sovereign lands, a lease from the Commission may be required. Please contact Diane Jones at 916-574-1843 for information concerning leasing requirements.

If you have any questions concerning the environmental review, please contact Chris Huitt at (916) 574-1938 or by e-mail at <a href="https://huitto.co.gov.nih.gov">https://huitto.co.gov.nih.gov</a>.

Sincerely,

Marina R. Brand, Assistant Chief Division of Environmental Planning

morma 3. mand

and Management

cc: Office of Planning and Research

D. Jones, CSLC

C. Huitt, CSLC



# COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

# **Board of Supervisors**

P.O. Box 750 ● 201 Fourth Street Yreka, California 96097 www.co.siskiyou.ca.us (530) 842-8005

FAX (530) 842-8013 Toll Free: 1-888-854-2000, ext. 8005

November 10, 2009

Environmental Program Manager California Department of Fish and Game 601 Locust Street Redding, CA 96001

RE: DFG Suction Dredging Scoping meetings related to SB 670

Dear Mark:

The Klamath River and its tributaries has been the epicenter of the controversy regarding the impact of suction dredge mining on salmon fisheries. Siskiyou County has been a participant in the court proceedings involving the Karuk tribe, California Department of Fish and Game and the New 49ers. Our Board of Supervisors sent a representative twice to testify in front of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee regarding legislation to curtail suction dredge mining. While the mining community throughout the entire state is now suffering due to the campaign instigated here and waged against this entire industry, it has been an especially cruel blow to one of the few sources of economic opportunity along the Klamath River corridor. The loss of miners as a source of tourist trade has also impacted many stores and businesses in this area.

Along with the economic and concomitant social impacts associated with the halting of suction dredging, the fact that the Department of Fish and Game is not planning to hold scoping meetings reasonably accessible to those in Siskiyou County sorely affected by the shutdown is questionable and it adds considerably to the injury already suffered.

The meeting in Redding is scheduled at 5 pm. While certainly convenient to anyone in Redding who has a job and cannot attend due to a normal work schedule, the average commute from Klamath River communities is probably in excess of 4 hours each way. If the meeting runs to only 9 pm as is very likely on such a controversial topic, people will be driving on narrow, winding roads after midnight. Spending money on motel rooms while many are already suffering economically makes too heavy a demand on local people entitled to a venue to express their views on this project.

To rectify this situation, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that the California Department of Fish and Game hold a scoping meeting on the Subsequent Environmental Impact Report for the Suction Dredging Permitting Program in Siskiyou County. Additionally, any public forums necessary for purposes of this project will likewise need venues reasonably accessible to the very large community affected by this situation.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

\$incerely,

Michael N. Kobseff, Chair

Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Sam Aanestad, Assemblyman Jim Nielsen



# State of California -TheNatural Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME Northern Region 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA 96002 www.dfg.ca.gov

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor JOHN McCAMMAN, Acting Director



November 19, 2009

Mr. Michael Kobseff, Chair Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors 201 Fourth Street P.O. Box 750 Yreka, CA 96097-0750

Dear Supervisor Kobseff:

I received your letter dated November 10, 2009, requesting that the Department of Fish and Game schedule a public scoping meeting for the Subsequent Environmental Impact Report on the Suction Dredge Permitting Program in Siskiyou County.

Your letter makes several observations regarding the current moratorium on suction dredge mining and the logistical challenges for attendance by residents of Siskiyou County at the closest scheduled meeting in Redding. I concur that the community affected by the moratorium is large. Our database of permit holders includes residents from every California County, as well as, several hundred from outside California. The California Environmental Quality Act requires that we offer one public scoping meeting. We have instead conducted three, these being in Fresno, West Sacramento, and Redding in an effort to provide better access than the minimum requirements.

We limited our effort based upon logistical considerations, primarily cost, travel arrangements to hold meetings, workload associated with arranging venues, staff, and materials and time.

While I acknowledge the points made in your letter as legitimate considerations, the Department of Fish and Game must also operate within our resources and will not be able to accommodate your request.

I do intend to meet with Mr. Ric Costales as requested by Supervisor Armstrong and note that Mr. Costales was able to attend the Redding public scoping meeting and represent Siskiyou County. Further, as this process proceeds I will be willing to appear before the Board of Supervisors, if you wish, and brief the Board on our progress.

If I can provide further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (530) 225-2275.

Sincerely,

Mark Stopher

Environmental Program Manager



# COUNTY OF SISKIYOU COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Ric Costales, Natural Resource Policy Specialist
P.O. Box 750 ● 201 Fourth Street, Yreka, CA 96097
Phone: (530) 842-8012, Fax Number: (530) 842-8013
Email: rcostales@co.siskiyou.ca.us

Mark Stopher
Environmental Program Manager
California Department of Fish and Game
601 Locust Street
Redding, CA 96001

RE: Suction Dredging Scoping related to SB 670

December 3, 2009

Dear Mark:

As we have discussed on two occasions, I am very concerned about the baseline that is being used to assess significance of impact of suction dredging in the DFG's proposed Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR). As we have both agreed, different outcomes for potentially required mitigation can definitely hinge upon whether an impact is measured against previously permitted suction dredging or against the background of no dredging which the Department has adopted as the baseline.

We have also both agreed that it is critical to get people back to work as soon as possible. Litigation certainly has the potential to prolong the cessation of suction dredging beyond all reason. I sympathize with the Department's feeling that the best way to avoid potential litigation is to follow the most conservative course, as well as the course mandated by CEQA, and use the conditions that were in existence at the time the Notice of Preparation was filed (i.e. "no dredging").

However, the lawsuit currently on file by the mining interests has a very reasonable likelihood of resulting in a decision that mining was unlawfully halted. If this turns out to be the case, I would think this would set the SEIR process back to square one, thus defeating the Department's goal of getting allowable suction dredging operations back to work as soon as possible. It seems a prudent course to avoid having to start the process over would be to simultaneously assess suction dredging against both possible baselines. It doesn't seem that this is an excessively expensive "hedge" against the costly risk of having to start over.

As you are well aware, the coordination between federal and state agencies and Siskiyou County has long been a sore point with the Board of Supervisors. Siskiyou County has formally requested the DFG to coordinate whenever it engages in activities that may affect the County (see attached Resolution 08-153 and mailing list) thus asserting its right under numerous state statutes cited within the Resolution. While there is certainly much confusion about what constitutes coordination, a lawsuit filed and won by California Attorney General Brown (California Resources Agency vs USDA, Case3:08-cv-03884-MHP), albeit dealing with federal statutes, sheds light on this relationship. "Coordination" is distinct from the labor- and technically-intensive "cooperating agency" status with which it is commonly confused. Rather, the burden is on the agency to generally strive to achieve the greatest possible level of consistency with local laws and policy with regard to whatever action or "project" it is contemplating. It is hoped that in the process of developing the SEIR, the Department will fulfill the intentions of the coordination mandate. I would be happy to provide you with any ordinances, policies, general plan elements, letters, etc., that would be of assistance to you in coordinating with local government.

As part of the policies of Siskiyou County, we have adopted the Siskiyou County Comprehensive Land and Resource Management Plan (SCCLRMP) which is designed to assist both federal (NEPA) and state (CEQA) processes in coordinating with the County. A somewhat readable OCR version is available at

#### http://library.ceres.ca.gov/docs/data/1600/1646/HYPEROCR/hyperocr.html

While I realize the CEQA process does not mandate a socio-economic assessment, but rather that it is included as part of the rule-making process, the SCCLRMP mandates that a socio-economic analysis be conducted as part of the environmental review. The rationale is that such socio-economic affects as may be visited upon the human environment by a project may have the potential to affect the natural environment. Again, it is hoped that DFG coordination with the County will render the SEIR consistent with this critical County policy.

Finally, since the topic of socio-economics is a good segue and particularly since the same SEIR contractor is doing the socio-economic work, at the scoping meeting the other night in Redding, the contractor offered a draft of the socio-economic survey for miners. They are not the only ones suffering the brunt of the infringement on miners' rights. Businesses in river communities are also being affected substantially and they likewise need to be surveyed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely.

Ric Costales, Natural Resource Policy Specialist

County of Siskiyou

# RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SISKIYOU ASSERTING LEGAL STANDING AND FORMALLY REQUESTING COORDINATION WITH ALL FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES MAINTAINING JURISDICTION OVER LANDS AND/OR RESOURCES LOCATED IN SISKIYOU COUNTY

WHEREAS, Siskiyou County is a public unit of local government and a five member elected Board of Supervisors serves as its chief governing authority; and,

WHEREAS, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors is charged with supervising and protecting the tax base of the County and establishing comprehensive land use plans (including, but not limited to, the General Plan) outlining present and future authorized uses for all lands and resources situated within the County; and,

WHEREAS, Siskiyou County is engaged in the land use planning process for future land uses to serve the welfare of all the citizens of Siskiyou County; and,

WHEREAS, approximately sixty-eight percent (68%) of lands in Siskiyou County are publicly owned, managed, and/or regulated by various federal and state agencies; and,

WHEREAS, the citizens of Siskiyou County historically earn their livelihood from activities reliant upon natural resources and land which produces natural resources is critical to the economy of Siskiyou County; and,

WHEREAS, the economic base and stability of Siskiyou County is largely dependent upon commercial and business activities operated on federally and state owned, managed, and/or regulated lands that include, but are not limited to, recreation, tourism, timber harvesting, mining, livestock grazing, and other commercial pursuits; and,

WHEREAS, Siskiyou County desires to assure that federal and state agencies shall inform the Board of Supervisors of all ending or proposed actions affecting local communities and citizens within Siskiyou County and coordinate with the Board of Supervisors in the planning and implementation of those actions; and,

WHEREAS, coordination of planning and management actions is mandated by federal laws governing land management, including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, 43 USC § 1701, and 43 USC § 1712, regarding the coordinate status of a county engaging in the land use planning process, and requires that the "Secretary of

SISKIYOU COUNTY RESOLUTION the Interior [Secretary] shall . . . coordinate the land use inventory, planning and management activities . . . with the land use planning and management programs of other federal departments and agencies and of the state and local governments within which the lands are located"; and,

WHEREAS, the coordination requirements of Section 1712 provide for special involvement by government officials who are engaged in the land use planning process; and,

WHEREAS, Section 1712 sets forth the nature of the coordination required with planning efforts by government officials and subsection (f) of Section 1712 sets forth an additional requirement that the Secretary "shall allow an opportunity for public involvement" (including local government without limiting the coordination requirement of Section 1712 allowing land or resource management or regulatory agencies to simply lump local government in with special interest groups of citizens or members of the public in general); and,

WHEREAS, Section 1712 also provides that the "Secretary shall . . . assist in resolving, to the extent practical, inconsistencies between federal and non-federal government plans" and gives preference to those counties which are engaging in the planning process over the general public, special interest groups of citizens, and even counties not engaging in a land use planning program; and,

WHEREAS, the requirement that the Secretary "coordinate" land use inventory, planning, and management activities with local governments, requires the assisting in resolving inconsistencies to mean that the resolution process takes place during the planning cycle instead of at the end of the planning cycle when the draft federal plan or proposed action is released for public review; and,

WHEREAS, Section 1712 further requires that the "Secretary shall... provide for meaningful public involvement of state and local government officials... in the development of land use programs, land use regulations, and land use decisions for public lands"; and, when read in light of the "coordinate" requirement of Section 1712, reasonably contemplates "meaningful involvement" as referring to ongoing consultations and involvement throughout the planning cycle, not merely at the end of the planning cycle; and,

WHEREAS, Section 1712 further provides that the Secretary must assure that the federal agency's land use plan be "consistent with state and local plans" to the maximum extent possible under federal law and the purposes of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and distinguishes local government officials from members of the general

public or special interest groups of citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency, charged with administration and implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), has issued regulations which require that federal agencies consider the economic impact of their actions and plans on local government such as Siskiyou County; and,

WHEREAS, NEPA requires federal agencies to consider the impact of their actions on the customs of the people as shown by their beliefs, social forms, and "material traits," it reasonably follows that NEPA requires federal agencies to consider the impact of their actions on the rural, land and resource-oriented citizens of Siskiyou County who depend on the "material traits" including recreation, tourism, timber harvesting, mining, livestock grazing, and other commercial pursuits for their economic livelihoods; and,

WHEREAS, NEPA requires federal agencies to consider the impact of their actions on the customs, beliefs, and social forms, as well as the "material traits" of the people; and,

WHEREAS, it is reasonable to interpret NEPA as requiring federal agencies to consider the impacts of their actions on those traditional and historical and economic practices, including commercial and business activities, which are performed or operated on federally and state managed lands (including, but not limited to, recreation, tourism, timber harvesting, mining, livestock grazing, and other commercial pursuits); and,

WHEREAS, 42 USC § 4331 places upon federal agencies the "continuing responsibility...to use all practical means, consistent with other considerations of national policy to . . . preserve important historic, culture, and natural aspects of our national heritage"; and,

WHEREAS, Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary (at 227, 1975) defines "culture" as "customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a group; the integrated pattern of human behavior passed to succeeding generations"; and,

WHEREAS, In 16 USC § 1604, the National Forest Management Act, requires the Forest Service to coordinate its planning processes with local government units such as Siskiyou County; and,

WHEREAS, federal agencies implementing the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Outdoor Recreation Coordination Act (16 USC § 4601-1(c) and (d)) are required by Congress to consider local plans and to coordinate and cooperate directly with plans of local government such as Siskiyou County; and,

WHEREAS, the coordinating provisions referred to in the resolution require the Secretary of the Interior to work directly with local government to resolve water resource issues and with regard to recreation uses of the federal lands, and,

WHEREAS, the regulations issued by the federal agencies in this resolution are consistent with statutory requirements of coordination and direct cooperation and provide implementation processes for such coordination and direction consideration and communication; and,

WHEREAS, the California Constitution has recognized Siskiyou County's authority to exercise its local, police and sanitary powers, and the California Legislature has recognized and mandated exercise of certain of those powers in specific statutes; and,

WHEREAS, the California Legislature has mandated in Government Code Section 65300 that each county shall prepare a comprehensive plan, and stated legislative intent in Section 65300.9 that the county planning shall be coordinated with federal and state program activities, and has mandated in Section 65103 that county local plans and programs must be coordinated with plans and programs of other agencies; and,

WHEREAS, the California Legislature has stated its intent in Section 65070 that preparation of state and regional transportation plans be performed in a cooperative process involving local government; and,

WHEREAS, the California Legislature has mandated in Section 65040 that the State Office of Planning and Research shall "coordinate, in conjunction with . . . local agencies with regard to matters relating to the environmental quality of the state"; and,

WHEREAS, in Water Code §§ 8125-8129, the California Legislature has placed planning for non-navigable streams within the authority of county supervisors, and since such planning activities must be coordinated with natural resource planning processes of federal and state agencies; and,

WHEREAS, in Streets and Highways Code §§ 940-941.2, the California Legislature has placed the general supervision, management, and control of county roads and highways - including closing such roads (Section 901) and removing and preventing encroachment of such roads and highways, and since planning and actions with regard to such roads by any federal or state agency must be coordinated with the county; and,

WHEREAS, in Public Resources Code § 5099.3, the California Legislature has mandated coordination by the state with Siskiyou County since it is a county "having interest in the planning, development, and maintenance of outdoor recreation resources

and facilities,"

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors does hereby assert legal standing and formally requests coordination status with all federal and state agencies maintaining jurisdiction over lands and/or resources located within Siskiyou County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board shall cause a copy of this Resolution to be transmitted annually to local, regional, state, and/or national offices of all federal and state agencies maintaining jurisdiction of lands and/or resources located within Siskiyou County and to all federal and state elected representatives serving Siskiyou County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is authorized and hereby directed to publish a copy of this Resolution in the Siskiyou Daily News, a newspaper of general circulation printed and published in Siskiyou County, California.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of August , 2008, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Overman, Erickson, Armstrong, Kobseff and Cook

NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

Chair, Board of Supervisors W.R. Overman

ATTEST:

COLLEEN SETZER, CLERK

Board of Supervisors

Deputy

G;\Share\RESOLUTN\Coordination with State and Federal Agencies 2008 RES.wpd

## Agencies federal:

Bureau of Reclamation - Klamath Falls Christine Karas, Acting Area Manager 6600 Washburn Way, Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603

Klamath National Forest Patricia A. Grantham, Forest Supervisor 1312 Fairlane Road Yreka, CA 96097-9549

Six Rivers National Forest Tyrone Kelley, Forest Supervisor 1330 Bayshore Way Eureka, CA 95501

Modoc National Forest Stanley G. Sylva, Forest Supervisor 800 West 12th Street Alturas, California 96101

USDA Service Center Shasta-Trinity National Forest 3644 Avtech Parkway Redding, CA 96002

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Scott Conroy, Forest Supervisor 3040 Biddle Road Medford, OR 97504

Bureau of Land Management – Redding 355 Hemsted Drive Redding, CA 96002

Bureau of Land Management Ashland \*\*\*\*

Bureau of Land Management 2950 Riverside Drive Susanville, CA 96130

US Fish and Wildlife Yreka 1829 S Oregon St Yreka, CA 96097

US Fish and Wildlife Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges 4009 Hill Road Tulelake, CA 96134 Bureau of Land Management Medford Office 3040 Biddle Road Medford, OR 97504 NOA Fisheries – \*\*\*
NOAA Office of Program Planning and Integration
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District Colonel Thomas C. Chapman, District Engineer 1325 J Street Sacramento, CA 95814

National Park Service - Pacific West Region Regional Director, Jon Jarvis One Jackson Center 1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700 Oakland, CA 94607

National Grasslands in Butte Valley – US Forest Service, RGE 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Mailstop Code: 1103 Washington DC 20250-1103

US EPA Region 9 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA, 94105

Bureau of Indian Affairs Redding US Indian Affairs Bureau 1900 Churn Creek Rd Redding, CA 96002

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street, NE Washington, DC 20426

USGS Fort Collins,CO Central Region US Geological Survey Box 25046 Denver Federal Center Denver, CO 80225

Western Region US Geological Survey 345 Middlefield Road Menlo Park, CA 94025

USDA NRCS, Yreka USDA, NRCS, Deputy Chief for Programs 14th and Independence Ave., SW., Room 5109-S Washington, DC 20250

Pacific Fishery Management Council 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101 Portland, OR 97220-1384

NMFS Southwest Region 501 West Ocean Blvd. Long Beach CA 90802-4213

## **STATE Agencies**

California Board of Forestry State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection P.O. BOX 944246 Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

CalFire
Cal Fire State Headquarters
PO Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

CA Dept. of Fish and Game Sacramento, Redding, Yreka, Butte Valley Wildlife, Shasta Valley Wildlife

DFG Headquarters

Main Office

601 Locust Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Redding, CA 96001

State Resources Agency Resources Agency 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814

California State Lands Commission Sacramento Office 1001 Howe Ave, Ste. 100, South Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

Cal EPA 1001 'I' Street P.O. Box 2815 Sacramento, CA 95812-2815

CARB California Air Resources Board 1001 "I" Street P.O. Box 2815 Sacramento, CA 95812

Dept. of Water Resources Sacto., Department of Water Resources P.O. Box 942836 Sacramento, CA 94236

Redding (no listing in Redding)

State Water Resources Control Board, Sacto. 1001 'I' Street P.O. Box 100 Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A Santa Rosa, CA 95403 State Mining and Geology Board Office of Mine Reclamation 801 K Street, MS 09-06 Sacramento, CA 95814

California Biodiversity Council c/o CAL FIRE FRAP PO Box 944246 Sacramento, CA 94244

California Coastal Commission Headquarters Office 45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000 San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

North Coast District Office Bob Merrill, District Manager 710 E Street, Suite 200 Eureka, CA 95501

Caltrans
P.O. Box 942873
Sacramento, CA 94273-0001
District 2
P.O. Box 496073
Redding, CA 96049-6073

Dept. of Conservation DOC Headquarters 801 'K' Street, MS 24-01 Sacramento, CA 95814

California Fish and Game Commission 1416 Ninth Street P.O. Box 944209 Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

California Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Historic Preservation P.O. Box 942896 Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Dept. of Pesticide Regulation 1001 | Street P.O. Box 4015 Sacramento, CA 95812-4015

California Energy Commission Media and Public Communications Office 1516 Ninth Street, MS-29 Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Sacramento Main Office 11020 Sun Center Drive #200 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

Redding Branch Office 415 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 100 Redding, CA 96002 US Attorney McGregor Scott United States Attorney's Office 501 'I' Street, Suite 10-100 Sacramento, CA 95814

CA Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger State Capitol Building Sacramento, CA 95814

OR Governor Ted Kulongoski 160 State Capitol 900 Court Street Salem, Oregon 97301-4047

US Department of Interior 1849 C Street, NW Washington DC 20240

US Department of Agriculture 1400 Independence Ave., SW Washington, DC 20250

Oregon Water Resources Department 725 Summer Street NE, Suite A Salem, OR 97301

Senator Dianne Feinstein United States Senate 331 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

US Senator Barbara Boxer 1700 Montgomery Street, Ste. 240 San Francisco, CA 94111

Congressman Wally Herger 2268 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Mike Thompson WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE 231 Cannon Office Building Washington, DC 20515

State Senator Sam Aanestad State Capitol, Room 2054 Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa State Capitol, Room 4164 P.O. Box 942849 Sacramento, CA 94249-0002 One Post Street, Suite 2450 San Francisco, CA 94104

501 'l' Street Sacramento, CA 95814

410 Hemsted Drive, Suite 115 Redding, CA 96002

HUMBOLDT DISTRICT OFFICE 317 3rd Street, Suite 1 Eureka, CA 95501

2400 Washington Ave # 301B Redding, CA 96001

Redding District Office 2865 Churn Creek Rd, Suite B Redding, CA 96002 Klamath County Oregon Klamath County Board of Commissioners 305 Main Street Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Trinity County CA
Trinity County Board of Supervisors
PO Box 1613
Weaverville, CA 96093

Humboldt County CA Humboldt County Board of Supervisors 825 Fifth Street, Room 111 Eureka, CA 95501

Del Norte County CA Administration 981 H Street, Suite 210 Crescent City, CA 95531

Herald & News P.O. Box 788 Klamath Falls, Ore. 97601

Siskiyou Daily News PO Box 129 Yreka CA 96097

Pioneer Press PO Box 400 Fort Jones, CA 96032

Southern Siskiyou News PO Box 127 Mt. Shasta CA 96067 Del Norte County Board of Supervisors 981 H Street, Suite 200 Crescent City, CA 95531



# COUNTY OF SISKIYOU COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Ric Costales, Natural Resource Policy Specialist

P.O. Box 750 • 201 Fourth Street, Yreka, CA 96097 Phone: (530) 842-8012, Fax Number: (530) 842-8013 Email: rcostales@co.siskiyou.ca.us

Mark Stopher Environmental Program Manager California Department of Fish and Game 601 Locust Street Redding, CA 96001

RE: Suction Dredging Scoping related to SB 670

December 3, 2009

Dear Mark:

As we have discussed on two occasions, I am very concerned about the baseline that is being used to assess significance of impact of suction dredging in the DFG's proposed Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR). As we have both agreed, different outcomes for potentially required mitigation can definitely hinge upon whether an impact is measured against previously permitted suction dredging or against the background of no dredging which the Department has adopted as the baseline.

We have also both agreed that it is critical to get people back to work as soon as possible. Litigation certainly has the potential to prolong the cessation of suction dredging beyond all reason. I sympathize with the Department's feeling that the best way to avoid potential litigation is to follow the most conservative course, as well as the course mandated by CEQA, and use the conditions that were in existence at the time the Notice of Preparation was filed (i.e. "no dredging").

However, the lawsuit currently on file by the mining interests has a very reasonable likelihood of resulting in a decision that mining was unlawfully halted. If this turns out to be the case, I would think this would set the SEIR process back to square one, thus defeating the Department's goal of getting allowable suction dredging operations back to work as soon as possible. It seems a prudent course to avoid having to start the process over would be to simultaneously assess suction dredging against both possible baselines. It doesn't seem that this is an excessively expensive "hedge" against the costly risk of having to start over.

As you are well aware, the coordination between federal and state agencies and Siskiyou County has long been a sore point with the Board of Supervisors. Siskiyou County has formally requested the DFG to coordinate whenever it engages in activities that may affect the County (see attached Resolution 08-153 and mailing list) thus asserting its right under numerous state statutes cited within the Resolution. While there is certainly much confusion about what constitutes coordination, a lawsuit filed and won by California Attorney General Brown (California Resources Agency vs USDA, Case3:08-cv-03884-MHP), albeit dealing with federal statutes, sheds light on this relationship. "Coordination" is distinct from the labor- and technically-intensive "cooperating agency" status with which it is commonly confused. Rather, the burden is on the agency to generally strive to achieve the greatest possible level of consistency with local laws and policy with regard to whatever action or "project" it is contemplating. It is hoped that in the process of developing the SEIR, the Department will fulfill the intentions of the coordination mandate. I would be happy to provide you with any ordinances, policies, general plan elements, letters, etc., that would be of assistance to you in coordinating with local government.

As part of the policies of Siskiyou County, we have adopted the Siskiyou County Comprehensive Land and Resource Management Plan (SCCLRMP) which is designed to assist both federal (NEPA) and state (CEQA) processes in coordinating with the County. A somewhat readable OCR version is available at

# http://library.ceres.ca.gov/docs/data/1600/1646/HYPEROCR/hyperocr.html

While I realize the CEQA process does not mandate a socio-economic assessment, but rather that it is included as part of the rule-making process, the SCCLRMP mandates that a socio-economic analysis be conducted as part of the environmental review. The rationale is that such socio-economic affects as may be visited upon the human environment by a project may have the potential to affect the natural environment. Again, it is hoped that DFG coordination with the County will render the SEIR consistent with this critical County policy.

Finally, since the topic of socio-economics is a good segue and particularly since the same SEIR contractor is doing the socio-economic work, at the scoping meeting the other night in Redding, the contractor offered a draft of the socio-economic survey for miners. They are not the only ones suffering the brunt of the infringement on miners' rights. Businesses in river communities are also being affected substantially and they likewise need to be surveyed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ric Costales, Natural Resource Policy Specialist

County of Siskiyou

# RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SISKIYOU ASSERTING LEGAL STANDING AND FORMALLY REQUESTING COORDINATION WITH ALL FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES MAINTAINING JURISDICTION OVER LANDS AND/OR RESOURCES LOCATED IN SISKIYOU COUNTY

WHEREAS, Siskiyou County is a public unit of local government and a five member elected Board of Supervisors serves as its chief governing authority; and,

WHEREAS, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors is charged with supervising and protecting the tax base of the County and establishing comprehensive land use plans (including, but not limited to, the General Plan) outlining present and future authorized uses for all lands and resources situated within the County; and,

WHEREAS, Siskiyou County is engaged in the land use planning process for future land uses to serve the welfare of all the citizens of Siskiyou County; and,

WHEREAS, approximately sixty-eight percent (68%) of lands in Siskiyou County are publicly owned, managed, and/or regulated by various federal and state agencies; and,

WHEREAS, the citizens of Siskiyou County historically earn their livelihood from activities reliant upon natural resources and land which produces natural resources is critical to the economy of Siskiyou County; and,

WHEREAS, the economic base and stability of Siskiyou County is largely dependent upon commercial and business activities operated on federally and state owned, managed, and/or regulated lands that include, but are not limited to, recreation, tourism, timber harvesting, mining, livestock grazing, and other commercial pursuits; and,

WHEREAS, Siskiyou County desires to assure that federal and state agencies shall inform the Board of Supervisors of all ending or proposed actions affecting local communities and citizens within Siskiyou County and coordinate with the Board of Supervisors in the planning and implementation of those actions; and,

WHEREAS, coordination of planning and management actions is mandated by federal laws governing land management, including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, 43 USC § 1701, and 43 USC § 1712, regarding the coordinate status of a county engaging in the land use planning process, and requires that the "Secretary of

SISKIYOU COUNTY RESOLUTION the Interior [Secretary] shall . . . coordinate the land use inventory, planning and management activities . . . with the land use planning and management programs of other federal departments and agencies and of the state and local governments within which the lands are located"; and,

WHEREAS, the coordination requirements of Section 1712 provide for special involvement by government officials who are engaged in the land use planning process; and,

WHEREAS, Section 1712 sets forth the nature of the coordination required with planning efforts by government officials and subsection (f) of Section 1712 sets forth an additional requirement that the Secretary "shall allow an opportunity for public involvement" (including local government without limiting the coordination requirement of Section 1712 allowing land or resource management or regulatory agencies to simply lump local government in with special interest groups of citizens or members of the public in general); and,

WHEREAS, Section 1712 also provides that the "Secretary shall . . . assist in resolving, to the extent practical, inconsistencies between federal and non-federal government plans" and gives preference to those counties which are engaging in the planning process over the general public, special interest groups of citizens, and even counties not engaging in a land use planning program; and,

WHEREAS, the requirement that the Secretary "coordinate" land use inventory, planning, and management activities with local governments, requires the assisting in resolving inconsistencies to mean that the resolution process takes place during the planning cycle instead of at the end of the planning cycle when the draft federal plan or proposed action is released for public review; and,

WHEREAS, Section 1712 further requires that the "Secretary shall . . . provide for meaningful public involvement of state and local government officials . . . in the development of land use programs, land use regulations, and land use decisions for public lands"; and, when read in light of the "coordinate" requirement of Section 1712, reasonably contemplates "meaningful involvement" as referring to ongoing consultations and involvement throughout the planning cycle, not merely at the end of the planning cycle; and,

WHEREAS, Section 1712 further provides that the Secretary must assure that the federal agency's land use plan be "consistent with state and local plans" to the maximum extent possible under federal law and the purposes of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and distinguishes local government officials from members of the general

public or special interest groups of citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency, charged with administration and implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), has issued regulations which require that federal agencies consider the economic impact of their actions and plans on local government such as Siskiyou County; and,

WHEREAS, NEPA requires federal agencies to consider the impact of their actions on the customs of the people as shown by their beliefs, social forms, and "material traits," it reasonably follows that NEPA requires federal agencies to consider the impact of their actions on the rural, land and resource-oriented citizens of Siskiyou County who depend on the "material traits" including recreation, tourism, timber harvesting, mining, livestock grazing, and other commercial pursuits for their economic livelihoods; and,

WHEREAS, NEPA requires federal agencies to consider the impact of their actions on the customs, beliefs, and social forms, as well as the "material traits" of the people; and,

WHEREAS, it is reasonable to interpret NEPA as requiring federal agencies to consider the impacts of their actions on those traditional and historical and economic practices, including commercial and business activities, which are performed or operated on federally and state managed lands (including, but not limited to, recreation, tourism, timber harvesting, mining, livestock grazing, and other commercial pursuits); and,

WHEREAS, 42 USC § 4331 places upon federal agencies the "continuing responsibility... to use all practical means, consistent with other considerations of national policy to . . . preserve important historic, culture, and natural aspects of our national heritage"; and,

WHEREAS, Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary (at 227, 1975) defines "culture" as "customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a group; the integrated pattern of human behavior passed to succeeding generations"; and,

WHEREAS, In 16 USC § 1604, the National Forest Management Act, requires the Forest Service to coordinate its planning processes with local government units such as Siskiyou County; and,

WHEREAS, federal agencies implementing the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Outdoor Recreation Coordination Act (16 USC § 4601-1(c) and (d)) are required by Congress to consider local plans and to coordinate and cooperate directly with plans of local government such as Siskiyou County; and,

WHEREAS, the coordinating provisions referred to in the resolution require the Secretary of the Interior to work directly with local government to resolve water resource issues and with regard to recreation uses of the federal lands, and,

WHEREAS, the regulations issued by the federal agencies in this resolution are consistent with statutory requirements of coordination and direct cooperation and provide implementation processes for such coordination and direction consideration and communication; and,

WHEREAS, the California Constitution has recognized Siskiyou County's authority to exercise its local, police and sanitary powers, and the California Legislature has recognized and mandated exercise of certain of those powers in specific statutes; and,

WHEREAS, the California Legislature has mandated in Government Code Section 65300 that each county shall prepare a comprehensive plan, and stated legislative intent in Section 65300.9 that the county planning shall be coordinated with federal and state program activities, and has mandated in Section 65103 that county local plans and programs must be coordinated with plans and programs of other agencies; and,

WHEREAS, the California Legislature has stated its intent in Section 65070 that preparation of state and regional transportation plans be performed in a cooperative process involving local government; and,

WHEREAS, the California Legislature has mandated in Section 65040 that the State Office of Planning and Research shall "coordinate, in conjunction with . . . local agencies with regard to matters relating to the environmental quality of the state"; and,

WHEREAS, in Water Code §§ 8125-8129, the California Legislature has placed planning for non-navigable streams within the authority of county supervisors, and since such planning activities must be coordinated with natural resource planning processes of federal and state agencies; and,

WHEREAS, in Streets and Highways Code §§ 940-941.2, the California Legislature has placed the general supervision, management, and control of county roads and highways - including closing such roads (Section 901) and removing and preventing encroachment of such roads and highways, and since planning and actions with regard to such roads by any federal or state agency must be coordinated with the county; and,

WHEREAS, in Public Resources Code § 5099.3, the California Legislature has mandated coordination by the state with Siskiyou County since it is a county "having interest in the planning, development, and maintenance of outdoor recreation resources

and facilities,"

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors does hereby assert legal standing and formally requests coordination status with all federal and state agencies maintaining jurisdiction over lands and/or resources located within Siskiyou County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board shall cause a copy of this Resolution to be transmitted annually to local, regional, state, and/or national offices of all federal and state agencies maintaining jurisdiction of lands and/or resources located within Siskiyou County and to all federal and state elected representatives serving Siskiyou County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is authorized and hereby directed to publish a copy of this Resolution in the Siskiyou Daily News, a newspaper of general circulation printed and published in Siskiyou County, California.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this <u>12th</u> day of <u>August</u>, 2008, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Overman, Erickson, Armstrong, Kobseff and Cook

NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

Chair, Board of Supervisors W.R. Overman

ATTEST:

COLLEEN SETZER, CLERK

Board of Supervisors

Depult

G:\Share\RESOLUTN\Coordination with State and Federal Agencies 2008 RES.wpd

## **Agencies federal:**

Bureau of Reclamation - Klamath Falls Christine Karas, Acting Area Manager 6600 Washburn Way, Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603

Klamath National Forest Patricia A. Grantham, Forest Supervisor 1312 Fairlane Road Yreka, CA 96097-9549

Six Rivers National Forest Tyrone Kelley, Forest Supervisor 1330 Bayshore Way Eureka, CA 95501

Modoc National Forest Stanley G. Sylva, Forest Supervisor 800 West 12th Street Alturas, California 96101

USDA Service Center Shasta-Trinity National Forest 3644 Avtech Parkway Redding, CA 96002

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Scott Conroy, Forest Supervisor 3040 Biddle Road Medford, OR 97504

Bureau of Land Management – Redding 355 Hemsted Drive Redding, CA 96002

Bureau of Land Management Ashland \*\*\*\*

Bureau of Land Management 2950 Riverside Drive Susanville, CA 96130

US Fish and Wildlife Yreka 1829 S Oregon St Yreka, CA 96097

US Fish and Wildlife Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges 4009 Hill Road Tulelake, CA 96134 Bureau of Land Management Medford Office 3040 Biddle Road Medford, OR 97504 NOA Fisheries – \*\*\*
NOAA Office of Program Planning and Integration
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District Colonel Thomas C. Chapman, District Engineer 1325 J Street Sacramento, CA 95814

National Park Service - Pacific West Region Regional Director, Jon Jarvis One Jackson Center 1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700 Oakland, CA 94607

National Grasslands in Butte Valley – US Forest Service, RGE 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Mailstop Code: 1103 Washington DC 20250-1103

US EPA Region 9 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA, 94105

Bureau of Indian Affairs Redding US Indian Affairs Bureau 1900 Churn Creek Rd Redding, CA 96002

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street, NE Washington, DC 20426

USGS Fort Collins,CO Central Region US Geological Survey Box 25046 Denver Federal Center Denver, CO 80225

Western Region US Geological Survey 345 Middlefield Road Menlo Park, CA 94025

USDA NRCS, Yreka USDA, NRCS, Deputy Chief for Programs 14th and Independence Ave., SW., Room 5109-S Washington, DC 20250

Pacific Fishery Management Council 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101 Portland, OR 97220-1384

NMFS Southwest Region 501 West Ocean Blvd. Long Beach CA 90802-4213

# **STATE Agencies**

California Board of Forestry State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection P.O. BOX 944246 Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

CalFire
Cal Fire State Headquarters
PO Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

CA Dept. of Fish and Game Sacramento, Redding, Yreka, Butte Valley Wildlife, Shasta Valley Wildlife

DFG Headquarters

1416 9th Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Main Office

601 Locust Street

Redding, CA 96001

State Resources Agency Resources Agency 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311 Sacramento. CA 95814

California State Lands Commission Sacramento Office 1001 Howe Ave, Ste. 100, South Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

Cal EPA 1001 'I' Street P.O. Box 2815 Sacramento, CA 95812-2815

CARB California Air Resources Board 1001 "I" Street P.O. Box 2815 Sacramento, CA 95812

Dept. of Water Resources Sacto., Department of Water Resources P.O. Box 942836 Sacramento, CA 94236

Redding (no listing in Redding)

State Water Resources Control Board, Sacto. 1001 'I' Street P.O. Box 100 Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A Santa Rosa, CA 95403

State Mining and Geology Board Office of Mine Reclamation 801 K Street, MS 09-06 Sacramento, CA 95814

California Biodiversity Council c/o CAL FIRE FRAP PO Box 944246 Sacramento, CA 94244

California Coastal Commission Headquarters Office 45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000 San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

North Coast District Office Bob Merrill, District Manager 710 E Street, Suite 200 Eureka, CA 95501

Caltrans
P.O. Box 942873
Sacramento, CA 94273-0001
District 2
P.O. Box 496073
Redding, CA 96049-6073

Dept. of Conservation DOC Headquarters 801 'K' Street, MS 24-01 Sacramento, CA 95814

California Fish and Game Commission 1416 Ninth Street P.O. Box 944209 Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

California Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Historic Preservation P.O. Box 942896 Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Dept. of Pesticide Regulation 1001 I Street P.O. Box 4015 Sacramento, CA 95812-4015

California Energy Commission Media and Public Communications Office 1516 Ninth Street, MS-29 Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Sacramento Main Office 11020 Sun Center Drive #200 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

Redding Branch Office 415 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 100 Redding, CA 96002 US Attorney McGregor Scott United States Attorney's Office 501 'I' Street, Suite 10-100 Sacramento, CA 95814

CA Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger State Capitol Building Sacramento, CA 95814

OR Governor Ted Kulongoski 160 State Capitol 900 Court Street Salem, Oregon 97301-4047

US Department of Interior 1849 C Street, NW Washington DC 20240

US Department of Agriculture 1400 Independence Ave., SW Washington, DC 20250

Oregon Water Resources Department 725 Summer Street NE, Suite A Salem, OR 97301

Senator Dianne Feinstein United States Senate 331 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

US Senator Barbara Boxer 1700 Montgomery Street, Ste. 240 San Francisco, CA 94111

Congressman Wally Herger 2268 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Mike Thompson WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE 231 Cannon Office Building Washington, DC 20515

State Senator Sam Aanestad State Capitol, Room 2054 Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa State Capitol, Room 4164 P.O. Box 942849 Sacramento, CA 94249-0002 One Post Street, Suite 2450 San Francisco, CA 94104

501 'I' Street Sacramento, CA 95814

410 Hemsted Drive, Suite 115 Redding, CA 96002

HUMBOLDT DISTRICT OFFICE 317 3rd Street, Suite 1 Eureka, CA 95501

2400 Washington Ave # 301B Redding, CA 96001

Redding District Office 2865 Churn Creek Rd, Suite B Redding, CA 96002 Klamath County Oregon Klamath County Board of Commissioners 305 Main Street Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Trinity County CA Trinity County Board of Supervisors PO Box 1613 Weaverville, CA 96093

Humboldt County CA Humboldt County Board of Supervisors 825 Fifth Street, Room 111 Eureka, CA 95501

Del Norte County CA Administration 981 H Street, Suite 210 Crescent City, CA 95531

Herald & News P.O. Box 788 Klamath Falls, Ore. 97601

Siskiyou Daily News PO Box 129 Yreka CA 96097

Pioneer Press PO Box 400 Fort Jones, CA 96032

Southern Siskiyou News PO Box 127 Mt. Shasta CA 96067 Del Norte County Board of Supervisors 981 H Street, Suite 200 Crescent City, CA 95531